

July 27,2010

Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Social Security at 75 Years

Honorable Members of the Committee:

I have lost three husbands to death. I receive none of their social security benefits. In addition to my 34 years of teaching, I have held part-time, summers, and Christmas holiday jobs that qualified me for my full quarters in social security benefits. I am now 75 and I need the benefits. I live alone and have to support myself. If you average social security pay per month as \$800, I have lost 4 complete social security benefits for 13 years which is \$41,600.00. We, on poverty level after working all our lives and serving our children, deserve better than that. Of all the wasteful spending in Washington, President Obama and Congress, should consider the state workers. Federal workers certainly get hefty pensions and health benefits.

I urge Congress to take immediate action to pass the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 235/S, 484), which would repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision.

These unfair offsets take away some retired public employees' benefits that they have earned, often forcing them into poverty.

Public employees like educators, police officers, and firefighters should not suffer a penalty for dedicating their lives to public services.

The GPO and WEP discourage talented people from entering public service occupations.

Both the House and the Senate held hearings in the 110th Congress, but the bill has not moved out of the committee.

Retired educators, those still in the profession, and those seeking to enter the profession cannot wait any longer for action.

I urge Congress to move the Social Security Fairness Act forward for a vote. In addition, if Congress takes up overall social security reform, I urge inclusion of repeal of the GPO and WEP as part of any reform package.

Pass the Social Security Fairness Act (S484 & HR235) to repeal the WEP and GPO!

Respectfully,

Nita Smyth

Texas